Planning Department

303 West Church Street | P.O. Box 249 | Laurinburg, NC 28353 T: 910.276.8324 | F: 910.276.0354 | www.laurinburg.org



PROPOSAL FOR USEPA'S COMMUNITY-WIDE BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT RFP NO. EPA-OLEM-OBLR-21-04/ CFDA NO. 66.818

Section IV.D. – Narrative Information Sheet December 1, 2021

R04-22-A-028

1. Applicant Identification

City of Laurinburg, North Carolina 303 West Church Street Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352

- 2. Funding Requested
 - a. <u>Assessment Grant Type:</u>

Community-wide

- b. <u>Federal Funds Requested:</u>
 - i. \$500,000
 - ii. N/A Not Site-Specific
- 3. Location:

City of Laurinburg, Scotland County, North Carolina

- 4. <u>Target Area and Priority Site/Property Information:</u>
 - Target Area and Census Tract

Target Area
Laurinburg After Five Area

Census Tract

102

- Addresses of Priority Site(s)
 - 1. McKay Street Storefronts, 109 117 McKay Street, Laurinburg, NC 28352
 - 2. Central Hotel, 102 East Bizzell Street, Laurinburg, NC 28352
 - 3. Covington Concrete, 111 North Gill Street, Laurinburg, NC 28352

5. <u>Contacts</u>

a. <u>Project Director / AOR</u>

Michael Mandeville, Community Development Director

City of Laurinburg

303 West Church Street

Laurinburg, NC 28352-3719

Phone:

910-276-8324

E-mail:

mmandeville@laurinburg.org

b. <u>Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Elected Official</u>

Hon. James T. Willis, Mayor

City of Laurinburg 308 Prince Street Laurinburg, NC 28352

Phone:

(910) 276-8257

E-mail:

mayor@laurinburg.org

6. <u>Population</u>

City of Laurinburg, North Carolina

 $15,119^{1}$

¹ US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

7. Other Factors Checklist

Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 10,000 or less.	
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory.	
The priority brownfield site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	
The priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them).	3
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; OR will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	
30% or more of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities for priority brownfield site(s) within the target area(s).	9
The target area(s) is located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2011 or later) or is closing.	

8. <u>Letter from the State Environmental Authority</u>: Attached

ROY COOPER Governor ELIZABETH S. BISER Secretary MICHAEL SCOTT Director



October 29, 2021

Michael Mandeville, Planning and Community Development Director City of Laurinburg 303 W Church St Laurinburg, NC 28352 mmandeville@laurinburg.org

Re: U.S. EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant – City of Laurinburg

Dear Mr. Mandeville,

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Brownfields Program acknowledges and supports the City of Laurinburg's application for a U.S. EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant. We are aware that your grant will focus on an area within a one-mile radius of the Laurinburg After 5 Block with three priority sites identified: McKay Street Storefronts; the Central Hotel; and the Former Covington Concrete facility. This grant would be a tremendous economic development achievement for the City.

We hope that the City is successfully awarded this grant, and we will continue to support you in your Brownfields redevelopment efforts. The Brownfields Program offers technical project guidance in accordance with our program, throughout the life of your project. This is a major key to ensuring grant applicants make efficient use of the federal funds awarded. The liability protection offered by the program is also a primary marketing tool for developers and instrumental in securing financing.

The Brownfields Program can also assist with outreach efforts to your local community regarding reuse for commercial purposes and the controls to be put in place to make the property suitable. The liability protection offered by a Brownfields Agreement is a benefit to the whole community and can often facilitate additional economic development in the area surrounding a Brownfields Property.

We look forward to working with you regardless of a grant award or not. We truly believe successful Brownfields projects can rejuvenate a community.

Sincerely,

Bruce Nicholson Brownfields

Enve Miluha

Program Manager

ec: NCDEQ Brownfields Public Outreach Team



City of Laurinburg, North Carolina Proposal for USEPA's Community Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant EPA-OLEM-OBLR-21-04 / CDFA No. 66.818 Section IV.E – Narrative Proposal / Evaluation Criteria December 1, 2021

1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

1.a Target Area and Brownfields

Background and Description of Target Area: The City of Laurinburg (Laurinburg or City), North Carolina (NC), which was first incorporated in 1877 and acts as the county seat of Scotland County, is presenting this application for the USEPA's Community-Wide Assessment Grant. The City is a threetime winner of the All-America City Award, part of the Main Street America Accredited program, and home to the long-established St. Andrews University. Laurinburg first realized economic prosperity in the 1850s and continued to see increased economic activity due to incoming textile mills and the active railroads that carried the region's farm products and manufactured goods out of the City. However, with the decline in traditional agriculture and manufacturing, including the demise of the textile industries, the area now faces enormous challenges. Companies including McNair's tobacco seed company, the Dixon, Waverly, and Morgan textile mills, and Abbott Labs all left the area or shut down by the early 2000s, resulting in the loss of over 2,000 jobs. These losses are starkly reflected in the City's economic and demographic profile. Laurinburg's unemployment rate in 2019 (14.6%) was nearly three times the national rate (5.3%)1 (see Section 2.a.i. for statistics), and stratification between racial and income groups is evident both economically and geographically. The City's population is predominantly African American, with White being the second most prevalent race followed by Native American Indian; however, the rate of African Americans living below the poverty line is almost three times that of Whites according to the 2019 Scotland County Community Health Assessment². Geographically, environmental justice issues are prevalent in the neighborhood north of the railroad tracks within Laurinburg's target area with low-income residents living among former industrial sites (including one priority site, Covington Concrete) that may still have existing environmental issues, while the more moderate-income groups are concentrated south of the tracks, creating a physical and social divide between the communities.

Recognizing economic, geographic, and social disparities, the City is actively formulating strategies to revitalize itself while including all social and economic groups in redevelopment planning. Laurinburg hopes to capitalize on its location at the crossroads of major highways (US-74 and US-401) and proximity to Fayetteville and Fort Bragg, one of the largest military installations in the world. Given these considerations, the target area was chosen to achieve a combined vision of *advancing economic growth and quality of life improvements* for City residents and surrounding communities and *establishing a sense of community* to unify the City and surrounding area. The Laurinburg After Five block (LAF Block) in downtown Laurinburg is slated to be redeveloped into a multi-venue entertainment district that is strategically placed on the border between the low income, minority neighborhoods north of the tracks and downtown Laurinburg to establish a connection between these communities and to advance economic growth. The target area encompasses a one-mile radius around the LAF block (*LAF Area*). Redeveloping these properties into restaurants, bars, and boutique retail within the LAF Area will increase foot traffic around the LAF venues. The LAF Area also encompasses the disadvantaged communities north of the railroad tracks where the City hopes to leverage interest in downtown redevelopment to establish new businesses and new opportunities for interactions

¹ United States Census Bureau. 2019 ACS 5-year estimates. https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/

² Community Health Assessment 2019, Scotland County, NC. Scotland County Health Department

between neighbors which will lead to a more unified downtown area.

With its economic struggles, it is a challenge for the City to both serve its residents and allocate the needed resources for revitalization without external help. Despite this challenge, the City is actively moving forward in redeveloping their downtown using the National Main Street Four-Point Approach® framework. An injection of funds through the EPA Brownfields grant in support of environmental assessment and redevelopment planning will be a significant factor in realizing their plans.

1.a.ii. Description of Priority Brownfield Sites: At least 25 brownfields sites lie within the one-mile radius of the target area, most of which are primarily retail spaces but which also include 11 active and former auto shops and 5 active or former industrial sites. Out of these brownfields, Laurinburg is focusing on three priority brownfield sites within the LAF Area based on the likelihood of achieving their vision of spurring economic growth, improving quality of life, and boosting community relationships, as well as addressing environmental injustices and health issues.

The first priority site is a cluster of five vacant storefronts dating back to 1909 located at 109-117 McKay Street, one block south of the LAF Block, which will be a strategic location for boutique retail stores and restaurants with existing on- and off-street parking. One of these buildings (109 McKay St) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Laurinburg Commercial Historic District. While surrounding storefronts are occupied by active businesses, the vacant *McKay Street storefronts* are deteriorating because the owners have no means to perform assessments or renovations without outside assistance. Until they can be returned to commercial use, these properties will be a missed opportunity to increase the community's economic activity and therefore its tax revenue. Given their age, the buildings likely contain lead paint, mold, and asbestos, which can cause neurological and developmental disorders and respiratory diseases such as asthma and lung cancer. Historic occupants of the McKay shops included a dry cleaner, and 3 additional dry cleaners were located on adjacent properties. Solvents from dry cleaning services may have remained onsite and/or migrated to the storefront properties through subsurface contamination or stormwater runoff and are known to be carcinogenic. Evaluation is needed to prevent future business owners and shopkeepers from potentially being exposed to these contaminants through inhalation during business hours.

The second priority site, the former *Central Hotel*, is also listed in the National Register. Built in 1893, it is the oldest surviving structure in the Laurinburg Commercial Historic District, adding to the urgency to restore this dangerously dilapidated building. In the 1920s, it was the only business in town that rented rooms to African Americans. It later housed multiple restaurants until 1997. Now vacant, it lies 2 blocks northeast of the LAF Block, just north of the railroad tracks and within the disadvantaged African American community. The current owner is promoting its reuse as a restaurant combined with a cultural arts center and bed and breakfast, which will add more businesses to the LAF Area and provide a center for cultural interactions. However, there are several sources of potential contaminants. The building was historically surrounded by multiple filling stations and auto repair shops. It is within 150 ft of an auto detailing shop, a funeral home, and an automotive repair shop. A significant release of fuel from a former service station was reported on an adjoining property in 2008. Historic and recent contaminants such as leaded fuels, solvents and other chemicals from surrounding services could therefore have migrated to the property. A high concentration of lead in the environment is known to cause birth defects and neurological and developmental disorders. The hotel itself, due to its age and poor condition, most likely contains lead paint and pipes, mold, and exposed asbestos, which are known causes of birth defects, asthma, and lung diseases. Since one of its potential uses is a bed and breakfast, contaminants should be evaluated and removed to avoid exposure to its temporary residents, particularly children, and to employees, and also to ensure that any contaminants can't be spread to the surroundings.

The former **Covington Concrete** facility, established in 1965, is the third priority site and is also located 1 block north of the LAF Block, north of the railroad tracks and in the disadvantaged neighborhood. The City plans to convert Covington Concrete to a community garden where users from all demographics

can gather for a common activity, get some exercise, gain access to healthy, fresh foods, and potentially sell their produce at the nearby farmer's market, thereby also reconnecting with the community's agricultural heritage. A raised-bed community garden will not only increase the attractiveness of the area, but also provide an opportunity for diverse communities to congregate and participate in outdoor physical activity. Given its industrial history, this property likely has contaminants such as concrete dust, which contains silica and additives that can exacerbate respiratory diseases. Bulk fuels were often stored at such sites for refueling of onsite heavy equipment, corroborated by a 1994 report of significant fuel release from underground storage tanks, which can drain into a *local creek adjacent to the property* and transport contaminants downstream. An adjoining parcel is listed on the State's Hazardous Waste Sites Priority List indicating that uncontrolled disposal, spills, or releases of hazardous substances have been identified. Any potential contaminants need to be identified and removed to avoid health concerns related to the site's potential reuse for gardening and to prevent contaminant uptake by crop plants. Because these contaminants can be carried by wind or water to the surrounding low-income neighborhood, cleaning up this site will also address historic environmental justice issues by turning this potentially dangerous eyesore into an asset for the neighborhood and community.

1.b. Revitalization of the Target Area

<u>1.b.i.</u> Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans: Laurinburg plans to reuse the three priority sites to achieve a combined vision of economic growth that also creates a more cohesive community. These efforts align with the 2017 *Laurinburg Economic Development Strategic Plan*, which states the core redevelopment strategy of "harvesting the fruits of community entrepreneurship, enhanced by our ethnic diversity, [and] agricultural heritage." The City plans to combine economic growth with community solidarity and health improvements by promoting development of additional local retail stores and restaurants (*McKay Street storefronts*), a cultural center (*Central Hotel*) and a community garden (*Covington Concrete*). The target area and priority sites align with the City's Strategic Plan statement by including areas with different demographics, providing a concentrated area of commercial opportunity in the LAF Area, and enhancing community health and interaction.

1.b.ii Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy: The benefits realized through redevelopment of the priority sites are goals that Laurinburg's Economic Development Strategic Plan and the County's Community Health Assessment aim for: decreased poverty, corrections of environmental injustices, more cohesive communities, and a healthier quality of life. Redeveloping the priority sites in the target area will produce the following outcomes: 1.) 1.5 acres of land and 5 storefronts made ready for reuse, 2.) reduction of legacy pollution adjacent to disadvantaged communities, 3.) increased local businesses, 4.) more central areas for community gatherings, 5.) increased opportunities for physical activity, and 6.) more healthy food choices. If these plans are realized, multiple benefits will be achieved. Economic benefits include reduced poverty, the return of foot traffic to downtown, and additional tax revenues from new retail and restaurants in the LAF Area. Based on estimates from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics on average restaurants and retailer employee numbers, 110 additional jobs can be created from redevelopment of the priority sites. Quality-of-life benefits include better physical and mental health through increased physical activity and access to fresh foods; an increased sense of community; and improvements in the quality of life of the disadvantaged communities where environmental injustices have been rectified. Because all priority sites are next to or in disadvantaged communities (see Section 2.a.ii.(3)), all of these communities will realize direct health benefits from removal of contaminants in addition to economic benefits. Laurinburg's redevelopment can also help spur growth in the region through tourism and general economic growth from additional business activity.

1.c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources

1.c.i. Resources Needed for Site Reuse: Laurinburg fully anticipates the need to secure additional

³ Electricities of N.C., Inc. 2017. Laurinburg Economic Development Strategic Plan.

⁴ US Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2019. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages – Annual Averages.

funding and assistance for assessment, revitalization, and redevelopment of their target area and priority sites. Upon completion of assessments, additional funds and support will be sought for remediation and redevelopment through federal, state, and private partners. If remediation is required, Laurinburg can apply for up to \$500,000 to aid in remediation at one site using the US EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grants. Laurinburg has received multiple Golden LEAF (Tobacco Indemnification Fund) grants for infrastructure improvements, indicating that it meets the nonprofit's eligibility criteria of a distressed community and has an established history with this funding program. EPA brownfields funding will stimulate additional leverage funding from this established source. The McKay storefronts and Central Hotel are eligible for Building Reuse Grants from the NC Department of Commerce (NCDoC) under the Vacant Building Category and because Scotland County meets the requirement of a Tier 1 county, a designation for the most distressed counties in the state. Covington Concrete is eligible for over one third of project costs for development under the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Fund program given that Laurinburg would be applying as a public entity with a population of less than 20,000 that meets all qualifications. A community garden is considered a community facility under this grant program. Completion of environmental assessments and conceptual redevelopment planning will enable Laurinburg to seek these other monetary funding sources as well as attract private developers and investors.

<u>1.c.ii</u> <u>Use of Existing Infrastructure</u>: The priority sites and other prospective sites in the target area will use existing buildings, utility connections, and roadways. The **McKay storefronts** and **Central Hotel** in particular will take advantage of existing buildings and utilities available on the properties. Because the **Covington Concrete** site will be redeveloped into a community garden, any dilapidated or unsound structures at this site will be removed. A water connection is available at the Covington site for site use. Some improvements may be necessary to adapt the sites to their intended uses, but the City will facilitate upgrades where needed with the resources identified in **Section 1.c.i**.

2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.a. Community Need

2.a.i. The Community's Need for Funding: Laurinburg is one of the poorest cities in NC. The **Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates** program, which reports to the County level, indicated that Scotland County, of which Laurinburg comprises 44% of the population, has had a poverty level that was above 20% since 2004 with a high of 34.1% in 2013. A comparison of 2015 American Survey Data (ACS) versus 2020 Census data reveals that Laurinburg's moderately small population of 15,119 has declined by 3.7% since 2015, most likely due to economic difficulties in the City. Across demographics, 33.8% of City residents fell below the poverty level and 14.6% were unemployed in 2019, which is more than double NC and US rates. MHI in Laurinburg was \$30,862, less than half of the national MHI. Census Tract 102 (*CT102*) includes the disadvantaged neighborhoods north of the railroad tracks, as well as all three priority sites, and comprises the majority of the target area. Tract 102 is 75% African American and has a MHI of just \$24,384, with 38.7% of its residents living in poverty. Laurinburg's challenges, therefore, not only lie in a small population with significant economic challenges that limit financial resources, but

CRITERIA	US	NC	Scotland County	Laurinburg ^b	Census Tract 102
POPULATION ^a	331,449,281	10,439,388	34,174	15,119	3,614
PERCENT UNDER 5 ^b	6.1%	5.9%	6.4%	7.2 %	8.1%
PERCENT MINORITY ^a	38.4%	37.8%	57.9%	60.1%	81.4%
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (MHI)	62,843	54,602	37,238	30,862	24,384
PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.3%	5.6%	11.8%	14.6%	17.7%
PERCENT IN POVERTY (ALL PERSONS)	13.4%	14.7%	27.3%	33.8%	38.7%
PERCENT IN POVERTY (UNDER 18)	18.5%	21.2%	41.9%	52.0%	52.8%
PERCENT IN POVERTY (OVER 65)	9.3%	9.1%	14.0%	14.5%	18.5%

²⁰¹⁹ American Community Survey 5-year estimate data except where asterisked

^a 2020 Census data
^b 2019 ACS used in lieu of 2020 Census data for City of Laurinburg.

⁵ SAIPE Map: https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saipe/#/?map_geoSelector=aa_c

also an economically and physically divided community, which further restricts community-wide engagement and support for redevelopment. This grant is an important tool that provides opportunities for all demographics to improve their quality of life.

2.a.ii Threats to Sensitive Populations

(1) <u>Health or Welfare of Sensitive Population</u>: According to ACS data and EJSCREEN indicators, multiple sensitive populations exist within the target area. Within Laurinburg and CT102, the percent

Demographic Indicator	LAF Area %ile in State	North of Railroad %ile in State
People of Color	87%	92%
Low Income	95%	96%
< High School Education	78%	84%
< 5 Years of Age	83%	68%
> 64 Years of Age	50%	51%

Source: EPA EJSCREEN: https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/

of children under 18 and elderly over 65 living in poverty are at or greater than 145% and 59%, respectively, of the State's numbers. The population within the target area and north of the railroad tracks where the sensitive populations reside are at or above the 87%ile in the State for People of Color, the 95%ile for low-income populations, and the 78%ile for populations with less than a high school education. The LAF Area is at the 83%ile in the State with children less

than 5 years of age that are also living in poverty given the high low-income percentiles. These populations are particularly concentrated around the priority sites where contaminant exposure such as airborne mold spores and asbestos (Covington Concrete, Central Hotel) and petroleum spills (Covington Concrete) likely exist. These sensitive populations are at risk for contaminant exposure, especially the young and elderly^{6,7}, as they do not have the resources to alleviate health risks due to their economic status. This grant will provide the assessments needed to identify whether these sensitive populations are being exposed to contaminants. If exposure is found, removal of contamination at these sites will decrease health risks for the sensitive populations near these sites. New businesses at priority sites will also increase job availability and income in the area.

(2) Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions: For a City the size of Laurinburg, *specific health information for cancer, birth defects, and asthma are not available* separately from County health data. However, given that Laurinburg comprises 44% of the residents

Adverse Health Condition	NC	Scotland County
Cancer Deaths (per 100,000)	190.9	258.3
Lower Respiratory Disease (per 100,000)	52.3	54.2
Low Birthweight (%)	9.3	14.7
White	7.4	12.8
African American	15.0	17.1
Heart Disease (per 100,000)	184.1	262.3
Diabetes (per 100,000)	28.5	35.4

*NC Selected Vital Stastics for 2019, Vol.s 1 & 2

of Scotland County, County data gives a reasonable estimate for Laurinburg. NC Vital Statistics reports that Scotland County suffered a cancer death rate that was 35% higher than the state average in 2019. The incidence of low birthweight babies (often associated with birth defects) is almost 60% higher in Scotland County than the state average, with stark differences between the rates for Whites and for African

Americans in the County. Lower respiratory disease (which includes asthma), heart disease, and diabetes death rates in Scotland County were also higher than the State rates. Poverty, economic inequities, and minority status are stressors directly related to higher incidences of chronic diseases. A 2016 Scotland County Health Assessment (SCHA) listed among the 5 leading health concerns in the County a lack of physical activity, environmental factors, and poor nutrition. The SCHA also notes that African Americans suffered higher death rates from diabetes and heart disease. Contaminants such as fuels, asbestos, and lead most likely on or near the priority sites can contribute to elevated rates of cancer, respiratory disease, and birth defects. The reuse plans for the priority sites resolves health issues in two ways. First, through EPA grant funding, assessments will facilitate the identification of environmental concerns and health risks to the community at the sites. The assessment will inform site

⁶ National Research Council. 1993. Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

⁷ Committee on Chemical Toxicity and Aging. 1987. Aging in Today's Environment. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

⁸ Scotland County Health Assessment: http://www.scotlandcounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/1663/CHA-2016

redevelopment, which will mitigate identified contaminants and therefore reduce threats of adverse health conditions to the surrounding communities. Second, the new services will improve quality of life through jobs, additional support services, and increased housing values, all of which will improve physical health and mental health.

(3) Promoting Environmental Justice: Laurinburg's target area EJ Indexes for multiple environmental indicators are at or above the 81%ile in the state, indicating that a significant proportion of low income

	LAF Area	North of
Environmental Indicator	%ile in	Railroad
	State	%ile in State
PM2.5	83%	86%
NATA Air Toxics Cancer Risk	84%	87%
NATA Respiratory Hazard	85%	87%
Traffic Proximity and Volume	86%	81%
Lead Paint Indicator	95%	94%
RMP Proximity	87%	88%
Wastewater Discharge	99%	97%

Source: EPA EJSCREEN: https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/

and People of Color populations are disproportionately exposed to environmental risks such as proximity to buildings with lead-based paint and facilities that increase cancer risks and respiratory hazards. Former and current facilities can contribute to these environmental risks. Priority sites McKay Street, Central Hotel, and Covington Concrete are potentially releasing airborne particulates, which would contribute to air toxic cancer risks and respiratory hazards. In

addition, Covington Concrete may be releasing petroleum through storm runoff or through groundwater. All of these sites are surrounded by disadvantaged populations, including People of Color, low-income populations, and the young and elderly, as described in *Section 2.a.ii.(1)*.

The grant will help to a large extent in evaluating priority and other brownfield sites within the target areas for environmental risks, such as conducting Phase II ESAs at all priority sites to determine if asbestos, lead-based paint, and other contaminants exist onsite in the soil or groundwater. Laurinburg can then mitigate the environmental risks during the redevelopment process, which will remove the environmental risks to the nearby disadvantaged population and will pave the way to redevelopment of the priority sites and LAF area, thus increasing jobs, services, and property values. These actions will help rectify historical and ongoing environmental injustices in these target communities.

2.b. Community Engagement:

<u>2.b.i. and 2.b.ii Project Involvement and Project Roles:</u> Based on outreach efforts by the City, the following Project Partners have committed to participation in the program the following roles:

Project Partners	Point of Contact Email / Phone	Specific Role in Project		
Downtown Advisory Committee (DAC)	Jay Todd, COO of Service Thread jtodd@servicethread.com 910-277-3355 ext 214	Advise in site selection, prioritization, and redevelopment strategies. Liaision with local business community. Coordinate new business ventures for redeveloped sites.		
Scotland County Health Department	Kathie Cox kcox@scotlandcounty.org 910-277-2440	Expert on health resources and needs. Liaison with disadvantaged communities served by Health Department.		
Richmond Community College	Myra Locklear, Administrative Assistant mllocklear@richmondcc.edu 910-410-1705	Provide workforce training to potential small business owners and connect students with revitalization efforts.		
Restoring Hope Center, Inc.	Faye Coates, Executive Director restoringhopecenter@yahoo.com 910-276-4460	Liaison with Target Area communities to disseminate information on brownfields projects and work opportunities and to bring suggestions from those communities to BRAG on site selection and redevelopment.		

Recognizing the importance of community involvement in prioritization and redevelopment, Laurinburg will establish the *Laurinburg Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Group (Laurinburg BRAG)* consisting of local officials, educational organizations, health centers, and community

organizations with outreach capabilities to the target areas and disadvantaged communities. These representatives were chosen so that site selection, site prioritization, and redevelopment efforts can be informed by experts in fields that span economics, education, health, and community advocacy. In particular, the Downtown Advisory Committee will represent Downtown Laurinburg's interest, particularly in business ventures, while Restoring Hope Center, Inc. and the County Health Department extend their services to the target area, focusing on impoverished communities. Richmond Community College can support on-the-job training at redevelopment sites and connect with the local student community. This approach will ensure all groups are represented in the decision-making process.

2.b.iii. Incorporating Community Input: Laurinburg BRAG will use a hybrid approach to communicate project progress and receive and incorporate feedback from the local community in consideration of COVID-19 and the community's capabilities and limitations. In-person and virtual meetings will be organized with consideration for different work schedules, and advertised via the BRAG members, through social media, e-mail lists collected from prior meetings, local print, and fliers. In-person meetings will be at locations within the target area and will be outside when possible or inside with adherence to social distancing requirements as per COVID-19 guidelines. The City will also host virtual meetings and has been successful using platforms such as Facebook and Zoom this past year to conduct internal and public meetings with the ability for citizens to replay the meetings at their convenience, which are useful alternatives given COVID-19 and for schedule flexibility. Laurinburg BRAG will solicit comments, recommendations for site selection and prioritization, and redevelopment ideas during in-person and virtual meetings as well as at local events and through online and e-mail surveys. Core stakeholder groups will be formed in the target area that include community organizations, property owners, businesses, city staff and relevant BRAG members. These stakeholder groups will act as the interface between the City, the BRAG, and the community to provide a means for ongoing dialog and to incorporate and respond in an intentional way to community input on site prioritization, site selection and reuse planning. Partner organizations Scotland County Health Department and Restoring Hope Center, Inc., by their very structure, can communicate and disseminate information directly to and act as representatives for the local communities. This method of communication using stakeholder groups will benefit those communities where internet or phone access is limited. If needed, all forms of media and meetings can be offered with bilingual options to better reach and serve all communities.

3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

3.a. Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

Task 1 – Program Administration / Community Engagement

- i. Project Implementation: Cooperative Agreement Oversight: program and financial management to ensure compliance with grant requirements; data input and updates to ACRES database; attend brownfield-related training and conferences; and submit quarterly, annual, and final reports. Community Engagement: coordinate and conduct meetings/activities, and develop materials, as per Section 2.b.ii. Grant-funded direct costs: travel expenses (registration, airfare, lodging, and meals), supplies, and contractual costs for assistance with reporting, and maintaining interaction with stakeholders. Non-EPA funded activities: in-kind staff oversight for administration, monitoring, reporting, and community engagement activities and attending training conferences.
- ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Procure Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) (4.a.iii): Q1; ACRES and quarterly reports: quarterly and as needed; Annual and closeout reports: Q4, Q8, Q12; BRAG meeting: Q2 and quarterly thereafter; Other activities: Ongoing and as needed.
- iii. Task / Activity Lead: AOR and management team with input and assistance from QEP and BRAG.
- iv. iv. Outputs: RFP/QEP Contract (1); Quarterly Reports (12 Total 4/Year); Annual Reports (3); Closeout Report (1); PPFs/ACRES Site Entries (18); BRAG Meetings (12); Community Meetings (6); Conferences (4); Brochures (3); Media Releases (6); Web Page Content (3); Advertisement, printing, supplies (5 events).

Task 2 – Inventory Mapping & Database, Site Prioritization, Eligibility & Access

i. Project Implementation: Laurinburg will prepare a GIS brownfields site inventory and database for sites in the target areas, including priority sites described in **Section 1.a.ii**. These properties will be

compiled, mapped, characterized, and prioritized by the BRAG and County based on community vision and needs, and a pool of sites will be selected for assessment. No assessments will be conducted prior to confirming eligibility with EPA and NCDEQ if applicable for petroleum sites using Property Approval Questionnaires (PAQs). *Grant-funded activities:* Contractual costs to update, maintain inventory/database and prepare PAQs. *Non-EPA funded activities:* Staff oversight, site prioritization, and access coordination with property owners.

- ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Site inventory and database, prioritization, selection: Q2 Q3, update monthly; Other activities: Ongoing and as needed.
- iii. Task / Activity Lead: QEP to prepare/maintain inventory and PAQs with AOR/Management staff oversight, assistance with site access and work product review/approval. BRAG will provide input for site selection and prioritization.
- iv. Outputs: Inventory/Database (1); Prioritization Matrix (1); New and/or Updated PAQs (30)

Task 3 – Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs)

- i. Project Implementation: Upon receiving eligibility approval and access from property owners, approximately 18 Phase I ESAs will be conducted beginning with priority sites. Time and costs for Phase I ESAs are contingent upon property size, existing improvements, past uses, and extent of known or suspected Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs). Based on Phase I ESA results, approximately 5 sites will be addressed through Phase II ESAs, which include (a) project work plans, i.e., generic Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), site specific Health and Safety Plans (HASPs), and Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs); (b) soil and groundwater sampling; (c) lab analyses and data validation; and (d) summary reports with recommendations for further action, if warranted. *Grantfunded activities:* Contractual costs for assessments, work plans and reports. *Non-EPA funded activities:* In-kind staff oversight, coordination with property owners, and review of work products prior to submittal to EPA.
- ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Phase I ESAs: Q3 Q11 (after creating inventory database and priority list); Phase II ESAs: Q3 Q11 (following review of Phase I's and priority list).
- iii. Task / Activity Lead: QEP will conduct assessments with AOR oversight, assistance with property owner coordination and review/approval of work products.
- iv. Outputs: Phase I ESA Reports (18); Phase II ESA Reports (5); Phase II ESA Planning Documents (11 Total): Generic QAPP (1), HASPs (5) and SAPs (5)

Task 4 - Preliminary Planning for Remediation and/or Redevelopment

- i. Project Implementation: For some sites addressed through Phase II ESAs, preliminary remediation plans (Analyses of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives or ABCAs) and associated cost estimates will be prepared to review alternatives for further environmental investigation and/or remediation, if warranted. Staff and QEP will also work with stakeholders to conduct preliminary redevelopment planning for selected target areas and/or sites to explore best reuse and economic potential. This may include reuse plans, marketing/feasibility studies, master plans, infrastructure evaluations, and conceptual development plans. *Grant-funded activities:* QEP costs for remediation and redevelopment plans. *Non-EPA funded activities:* Staff oversight, coordination with property owners and community partners to prepare plans and review/approve work products.
- ii. Anticipated Schedule: Q3 Q11.
- iii. Task / Activity Lead: QEP with AOR oversight, assistance with property owner coordination and community input, and review/approval of work products.
- iv. Outputs: Site-Specific ABCAs (2); Site-Specific Redevelopment Plans / Studies for priority sites (4); Area-Wide Revitalization Plans / Studies for target area (2)

3.b. Cost Estimates: The *Project Budget Table* below provides direct costs for the defined tasks and cost types.

		Task 1 Oversight / Community	Task 2 Site Inventory / Prioritization	Task 3 Environmental Site Assesments	Task 4 Remediation / Redevelopment	TOTAL
Bud	get Categories	Engagement			Planning	
	Travel	\$5,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,500
Direct	Supplies	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500
S E	Contractual	\$21,600	\$19,400	\$302,000	\$150,000	\$493,000
TOTAL	L BUDGET	\$28,600	\$19,400	\$302,000	\$150,000	\$500,000

3.b.i / b.ii. Development and Application of Cost Estimates: The table below shows cost

estimates for each task, the development of costs based on reasonable and realistic unit costs, and application of costs to task activities. Cost estimates include an allocation of 60% of funds towards site-specific assessments and 30% of funds towards reuse/area-wide planning activities.

Task 1 - Administration / Community Engagement - \$28,600 Direct and Contractual

- (a) Travel \$5,500 Total (Direct Expense) Attendance of 1 national conference for 1 person and 3 state conferences for 2 people assuming the following unit costs (national/state): Conference registration: \$200/\$150; Transportation: \$700/\$200; Hotel: \$150 per night for 3 nights/\$100 per night for 2 nights; Meals: \$70 per day for 4 days/\$30 per day for 3 days
- (b) Supplies \$1,500 Total (Direct Expense) Advertisement, printing, supplies and promotional materials for 5 community-wide and/or site-specific events estimated @ \$300 per event.
- (c) Contractual \$21,600 Total QEP assistance for reporting / grant administration: \$750/quarter (\$3,000/year, \$9,000 total); and QEP assistance for community engagement activities including development of communication materials: \$1,050/quarter (\$4,200/year, \$12,600 total)

Task 2 – Site Inventory and Prioritization – \$19,400 Contractual

- (a) Develop and maintain a GIS brownfields site inventory mapping / database and site prioritization matrix estimated: \$6,750 (\$2,250 per community)
- (b) Site access coordination assistance, preparation, and submittal of PAQs: \$1,050/quarter (\$4,200/year, \$12,600 total)

Task 3 – Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs)* – \$302,000 Contractual

- (a) Phase I ESAs Eighteen (18) @ \$4,800 average \$86,400 total
- (b) Phase II ESAs Five (5) @ \$40,000 average \$200,000 total
- (c) Project Work Plans Eleven (11) plans \$15,600 total, as follows:

- Generic Quality Assurance Project Plan 1 @ \$4,100 Site-Specific Health & Safety Plans (HASPs)** 5 @ \$1,000 average \$5,000 total Site-Specific Sampling & Analysis Plans (SAPs)** 5 @ \$1,300 average \$6,500 total

Task 4 – Remediation / Redevelopment Plans – \$150,000 Total – Contractual

Based on site conditions following assessment, Laurinburg anticipates completing approximately nine (9) planning documents estimated as follows:

- (a) Preliminary Site Remediation Plans (ABCAs) 2 @ \$15,000 average \$30,000 total
- (b) Site-Specific Redevelopment/Reuse Plans/Studies 4 @ \$15,000 average \$60,000 total
- (c) Area-Wide Redevelopment Plans/Studies 3 @ \$20,000 average \$60,000 total
- * Unit costs for ESAs are estimates and may change depending on site-specific conditions.
- ** HASPs and SAPs will be combined into single report submittal.
- 3.c Measuring Environmental Results: To maintain steady progress throughout the grant, the QEP will prepare monthly reports to Laurinburg in compliance with the approved EPA Cooperative Agreement Work Plan, which will summarize activities, e.g., milestones achieved, issues encountered, and budget and schedule updates. Progress will be measured by the outputs defined in Section 3.a.iv. and evaluated against the schedule in Section 3.a.ii. and costs defined in Section 3.b.i./b.ii. Significant deviations will be discussed with the EPA Project Officer to develop corrective actions. Updates will be reported upon implementation and completion of each site-related task in EPA's ACRES database, and Laurinburg will provide ongoing (quarterly, at a minimum) and post-grant information describing outcomes and benefits of the funding, including additional funds leveraged, jobs created, acres made ready for redevelopment, and private investment and tax revenue generated by the program.

PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

Programmatic Capability 4.a.

Organizational Capacity, Organizational Structure, and Description of Key Staff: 4.a.i. 4.a.ii. 4.a.iii

The following table provides Laurinburg's organizational structure and a description of the experience and qualifications of the key staff. Given their education and professional experience, including their current positions, the key staff will provide the technical, administrative, and financial capacity to ensure that oversight, management and administration of the grant is successful. If additional staff or resources are required, the City will seek resources in-house to fulfill the need.

AUTHORIZED ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE (AOR): Michael Mandeville, Community Development Director

Degrees from West Virginia University; Experience in multi-disciplinary civil, environmental, and mining engineering projects; Previously worked for Fayetteville NC Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

ADMINISTRATIVE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Charles Nichols, City Manager

Undergraduate degree from NC State; MBA form UNC-Pembroke; Worked with Scotland County Board of Commissioners, School Board, and City Revitalization Corporation to create City's Art Garden; Local Businessman

FINANCIAL: Carrie Neal, City Finance Director

CPA; Degree from University of South Carolina; Worked as Assistant Manager of Financial Services for Franklin County, NC and as CFO for Moore County, NC

TECHNICAL: Mac McInnis, Planner, Zoning Officer, Code Enforcement Officer

Business degree from St. Andrew's University; 28 years as Licensed General Contractor in Laurinburg

BRAG Communications: Daniel Walters, Downtown Development Coordinator/Public Information Officer
Business administration degree with concentration in Finance from UNC-Pembroke; Relationship Banker at
Bank of America; Financial Services Representative at SECU; Customer Service Representative at Mariner
Finance

4.a.iv Acquiring Additional Resources: Laurinburg will rely on a *Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP)* with appropriate expertise and resources to carry out the technical aspects of its program. To obtain high quality services at reasonable cost, the City will follow its competitive negotiation policies and procedures, which will be conducted in a fair and impartial manner in compliance with Federal Code 40 CFR 31.36 and the North Carolina public procurement procedures for Qualifications Based Selection (QBS). Staff will advertise a request for qualifications and proposals, interview top candidates, score applicants, and make recommendations to the City Council for approval to negotiate a contract with a qualified candidate. Applicable EPA solicitation clauses will be incorporated into the solicitation and contract executed with the selected QEP.

4.b. Past Performance and Accomplishments

- 4.b.ii. <u>Laurinburg Has not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but Has Received Other Federal or Non-</u>Federal Assistance Agreements
- (1) Purpose and Accomplishments: The City has an excellent track record in grant management and performing all phases of work with over 10 grants and \$12 million awarded to the City in the past 15 years. Laurinburg won grants from the NC Department of Environmental Quality in 2021 for Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers totaling \$51,775. In 2019, the City received \$1.25 million from the Golden LEAF Foundation for flood damage to a fire station. The City was also awarded Community Development Block Grant funds of \$2 million in 2019 for sewer infrastructure improvements in a low-income area with significant issues with inflow and infiltration. Laurinburg has received Golden LEAF and CDBG grants in the past, and these recent wins from prior grantors confirm Laurinburg's ability to successfully complete grant projects. Finally, Laurinburg's Downtown Advisory Committee was awarded in 2021 a \$25,000 Duke Energy Hometown Revitalization grant which will be distributed as micro grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 to businesses. This history of awards clearly indicates the City's success in leveraging multiple resources and managing funds for successful completion of projects.
- (2) Compliance with Grant Requirements: The City has managed both federally and non-federally funded projects and is fully capable of successfully completing all phases of work under this cooperative agreement. Laurinburg is familiar with and understands the necessity of developing work plans, creating and maintaining schedules, and assuring adherence to project terms and conditions. For all projects identified above, all applicable site information, required administrative reports, design documentation, and final inspections were submitted in a timely manner and approved by funding and regulatory agencies with purview. Final project closeout was accomplished for these projects in compliance with program requirements.

Laurinburg City, North Carolina PROPOSAL FOR USEPA'S COMMUNITY-WIDE BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT RFP NO. EPA-OLEM-OBLR-21-04 / CFDA NO. 66.818

Section III.B. – Threshold Criteria December 1, 2021

1. Applicant Eligibility

The City of Laurinburg, a city in North Carolina that was first incorporated in 1887, is considered a *General Purpose Unit of Local Government*.

2. <u>Community Involvement</u>

Recognizing the importance of community involvement in the brownfields prioritization and redevelopment process, Laurinburg has collected partners that will support all stages of site selection and redevelopment. Laurinburg will establish a Laurinburg Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Group (Laurinburg BRAG) consisting of elected officials, educational organizations, health centers, and community organizations with outreach capabilities to the target areas and disadvantaged communities. These representatives in their fields were chosen so that site selection, site prioritization, and redevelopment efforts can be informed by experts in fields that span economics, education, health, and community advocacy. Laurinburg will use a hybrid approach to communicate project progress and receive and incorporate feedback from the local community in consideration of COVID-19 and the community's capabilities and limitations. In-person and virtual meetings will be organized and advertised via digital media and local print. Laurinburg will solicit comments, recommendations for site selection and prioritization, and redevelopment ideas during in-person and virtual meetings as well as at local events and through online and e-mail surveys. A core stakeholder group will be formed within the target area to include community organizations, property owners, businesses, and staff as well as relevant BRAG members. These stakeholder groups will act as the interface between the City, the BRAG, and the community to provide a means for dialog beyond initial meetings and to incorporate and respond in an intentional way to community input on site prioritization, site selection, and reuse planning. As an example, within the past few years, Laurinburg has reached out to stakeholders, such as the Downtown Advisory Committee (DAC), to spread information about and receive feedback on applying for the EPA brownfields grant. The DAC, in addition to partners Richmond Community College, Scotland County Health Department, and Restoring Hope Center, Inc., by their very structure, can communicate and disseminate information directly to and act as representatives for the local and disadvantaged communities. This method of communication using stakeholder groups benefits those communities where internet or phone access is limited. If needed, all forms of media and meetings can be offered with bilingual options to better reach and serve all communities. Reach out

3. Named Contractors and Subrecipients

Not applicable – the applicant has not identified a procurement contractor nor subrecipient to conduct work proposed in this application.

4. Expenditure of Assessment Grant Funds

Not Applicable: The applicant affirms it does not have an active EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant.

Laurinburg City, North Carolina

PROPOSAL FOR USEPA'S COMMUNITY-WIDE BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT RFP NO. EPA-OLEM-OBLR-21-04 / CFDA NO. 66.818

December 1, 2021

The following documents are included in this file:

- 1. Narrative Information Sheet
 - a. State Letter
- 2. Narrative Proposal
- 3. Threshold Criteria

OMB Number: 4040-0004 Expiration Date: 12/31/2022

Application for Fede	eral Assistar	nce SF	-424					
* 1. Type of Submission: Preapplication		* 2. Typ	ſ	* If F	Revision, select appropriate letter(s):			
			•	* Other (Specify):				
Changed/Corrected	Application	_	evision		e. (Geosty).			
						_		
* 3. Date Received: 11/29/2021		4. Applio	cant Identifier:					
5a. Federal Entity Identifier	r:			5	5b. Federal Award Identifier:			
				E	BF			
State Use Only:								
6. Date Received by State:	:		7. State Application	Ider	entifier:			
8. APPLICANT INFORMA	ATION:							
* a. Legal Name: City	of Laurinbu	ırg, No	orth Carolina					
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Ide	entification Num	ber (EIN	I/TIN):	*	* c. Organizational DUNS:			
56-6001263					0915641200000			
d. Address:				<u> </u>				
* Street1: 303	West Churc	h Stre	eet					
Street2:								
* City:	rinburg							
County/Parish:								
* State: NC:	North Caro	lina						
Province:								
* Country: USA	: UNITED ST	'ATES						
* Zip / Postal Code: 238	52-3719							
e. Organizational Unit:								
Department Name:				1	Division Name:			
f. Name and contact info	ormation of pe	rson to	be contacted on ma	atte	ers involving this application:			
Prefix: Mr.			* First Name	e:	Michael	Ī		
Middle Name:								
* Last Name: Mandevi	lle							
Suffix:]						
Title: Community Deve	elopment Di	rector	•					
Organizational Affiliation:								
City of Laurinburg								
* Telephone Number: 91	0-276-8324				Fax Number: 910-276-0354	Ī		
* Email: mmandeville@	@laurinburg	.org						

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424
* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:
C: City or Township Government
Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:
Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:
* Other (specify):
* 10. Name of Federal Agency:
Environmental Protection Agency
11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:
66.818
CFDA Title:
Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements
* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:
EPA-OLEM-OBLR-21-04
* Title:
FY22 GUIDELINES FOR BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANTS
13. Competition Identification Number:
Title:
AA Associated by Brainet (Cities Counties States at a):
14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):
Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment
* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:
FY22 City of Laurinburg North Carolina Brownfields Assessment Grant Program
Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.
Add Attachments Delete Attachments View Attachments View Attachments
7.03 / Madelinion 10

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424								
16. Congressional Districts Of:								
* a. Applicant	C-09			* b. Program/Project NC-09				
Attach an additional I	ist of Program/Project 0	Congressional Distric	ts if needed.					
			Add Attachment	Delete Attachment View Attachn	ment			
17. Proposed Proje	ect:							
* a. Start Date: 10	/01/2022			* b. End Date: 09/30/2025				
18. Estimated Funding (\$):								
* a. Federal		500,000.00						
* b. Applicant		0.00						
* c. State		0.00						
* d. Local		0.00						
* e. Other		0.00						
* f. Program Income		0.00						
* g. TOTAL		500,000.00						
	Subject to Review B							
				er 12372 Process for review on	·			
	ubject to E.O. 12372 ot covered by E.O. 12		elected by the State	or review.				
	nt Delinquent On Any No	rederal Debt? (If	"res," provide exp	lanation in attachment.)				
	planation and attach							
ii 165 , provide ex	planation and attaon		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment View Attachn	ment			
21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001) ** I AGREE ** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.								
Authorized Repres	entative:							
Prefix: Mr.		* Firs	st Name: Michael					
Middle Name:								
	deville	7						
Suffix:								
*Title: Community Development Director								
* Telephone Number: 910-276-8324 Fax Number: 910-276-0354								
* Email: mmandeville@laurinburg.org								
* Signature of Author	* Signature of Authorized Representative: Michael Mandeville * Date Signed: 11/29/2021							